

August 22, 1952

INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 29

IMMEDIATE RELEASEINTER-COUNTY TEST EXERCISES

1. At Oil City, Pennsylvania on June 17, 1952, the Erie and Venango County Civil Defense Organizations held an inter-county test exercise which representatives of the State Council of Civil Defense consider one of the best training and promotional programs that has come to their attention.

2. In the Erie-Venango test, the City of Erie was bombed and the problem was for Venango to furnish support to the stricken area. The test was conducted briefly as follows:

(a) Several hundred civil defense workers (only a few key officials knew in advance the details of the test) gathered in an auditorium in Oil City, where a tape recording of the bombing of Erie was played for them.

(b) The record of the bombing and reports of early damage were "as heard" in the control center at Erie. Then, without a break, requests for help were "sent" to the State Council's Western Area Director, who "re-layed" them to the Venango County Director.

(c) As the Venango County Director "received" the requests, he turned to various members of his staff (they were seated in the audience) and asked, for example, "John Jones, where do you want Erie to send 150 'expectant' women?" The answer was given and supposedly "passed back to the Erie Director through established channels".

3. While the Erie-Venango test was centered around welfare activities, the same general procedures readily can be used either for general civil defense tests, or for fire, police or other special activities.

4. Not only because of their local training and promotional values, but also because it is considered one of the best means of developing an effective statewide civil defense organization, the State Council of Civil Defense strongly urges all County Civil Defense Directors to conduct inter-county exercises generally similar to the Erie-Venango test described above.

5. In order to develop plans for local tests, County and Local Civil Defense Directors may wish to witness, or have members of their staff attend, one of two inter-county tests scheduled to be held in the near future. They are:

(a) Blair-Huntingdon County Exercise to be held at the V.F.W. Post, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, beginning at 6:30 P.M., E.D.T., Wednesday, September 10, 1952. (Dinner reservations - \$2.50 per plate - should be in the hands of County Director S. Harold Fisher, Court House, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, not later than September 2, 1952.)

(b) McKean-Elk County Exercise to be held at Hotel Emery, Bradford, Pennsylvania, beginning at 6:30 P.M., E.D.T., Wednesday, September 17, 1952. (Dinner reservations - \$2.50 per plate - should be in the hands of County Director Earl W. Duggan, Box 155, Bradford, Pennsylvania, not later than September 8, 1952.)

6. The two exercises listed above will be of particular interest to civil defense welfare workers, but all civil defense workers are cordially invited to attend and are sure to benefit by witnessing the demonstration.

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